

You Can Help...
Volunteers are needed. Volunteer by yourself, as a family or as a service agency or organization.

Please contact me with more information about Corrections Organized for Re-entry.

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Home Phone

Work Phone

E-mail address

Comments:

*Louisiana Department of
Public Safety and Corrections*

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*Louisiana Department of
Public Safety and Corrections*

Corrections Organized
for
Re-entry



Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor
State of Louisiana

Richard L. Stalder, Secretary
Department of Public Safety & Corrections

Corrections & Community
Together we can make a
difference!

Corrections Organized for Re-entry

CORE Mission

The mission of CORE is to enhance public safety and crime prevention through the organization and effective utilization of programs and resources to increase the ability of offenders to live lawfully in the community. Institutional and field staff will coordinate efforts and combine resources toward this end, and will actively seek partnerships with local and state service agencies, community organizations, and citizen volunteers throughout the re-entry process.

Vision

CORE is driven by the commitment of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to break the cycle of criminal activity and recidivism by offering offenders the resources, knowledge, and skills necessary to succeed in staying home after their release from custody.

CORE will be the primary component of and a

pivotal factor in the successful reintegration of offenders into society.

Philosophy

To achieve this mission the Department is committed to pursuing the following goals:

1. Encourage and assist offenders to make positive use of their time while in custody or under supervision by learning marketable skills, developing new behaviors, addressing deficiencies and beginning to think in concrete terms of creating a positive future for themselves and their families.
2. Provide offenders with an intensive period of planning and preparation two to three years prior to release or sooner as indicated. Focus will be given to education, job skills and practical survival matters, such as housing, job finding, parole requirements and developing an individualized accountability plan that the offender will be expected to follow once in the community.
3. Support offenders in their transition into the community and help them remain there as productive citizens by monitoring their behavior, identifying and referring them to community programs, developing partnerships with volunteer groups, local police, faith-based institutions, and organizations that can help them maintain their good intentions and positive efforts.

Offender Re-Entry

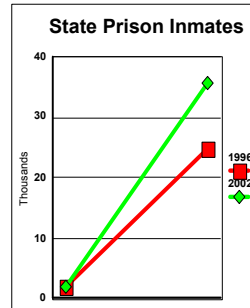
The massive increase in incarceration in the United States that occurred during the past twenty years has now turned public attention toward the consequences of releasing large numbers of offenders back into society. Offender re-entry has raised questions about public safety, about how corrections systems should manage the volume of releases, and about how communities can absorb and reintegrate the returning offenders.

All juveniles in secure care and about ninety-five percent of incarcerated adults in the United States will return to a community somewhere.



The Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections is committed to see that offenders return with the skills and desire to earn an honest living or return successfully to school with attitudes and insights that will lessen the likelihood of repeated criminal behavior and additional victims.

The Challenge....



Louisiana's incarceration rate highest in nation for past three years.

Consider: for more than 20 years, Louisiana's incarceration rate has been among the highest in the nation. For the last 3 years, it has been the highest. In January, 1996 there were 25,000 state prison inmates; in January, 2002 the number was 35,800.

Nationwide, adult offenders have been incarcerated for longer periods and are less likely to have participated in education and training programs. Longer stays are linked to loosening ties to family members and others in the free community, ties believed to support community reintegration. Many who are released will return to prison either for new crimes or parole violations. And, this cycle of removal and return is increasingly concentrated in a relatively small number of communities.

Much of the literature suggests that interventions like cognitive skills, drug treatment, vocational training, education, and other prison-based programs are successful at reducing recidivism. They are most effective



In Juvenile Institutions, youth are in class 330 minutes each day, 11 months a year.

when matched to offender risks and needs and supported through post-release supervision.

Findings from a recidivism study published by the Bureau of Justice Statistics in 1998 indicated that 40% of a group tracked following release from custody were rearrested during their first year out of prison. Consequently, the "moment of release" from prison and the period immediately following can be pivotal to a successful transition back to the community.



The Louisiana Prison Chapel Foundation has reached 25% of its goal of building 20 prison chapels

Because offenders not only come from local communities but return to them, partnerships are essential to their successful re-entry and reintegration into those communities. While correctional agencies have an important role in managing the re-entry process, it cannot be carried out successfully without the involvement of other state agencies, community organizations, faith-based groups, and the friends and families of offenders.

The Louisiana Initiative...

CORe is Louisiana's response to the challenge of offender re-entry. While much of the literature defines re-entry as the

process of leaving prison to return to society, the Department has broadened its definition to include all offenders under its authority because all will face a transition to some sort of less controlled environment.

The Department will organize, coordinate and enhance resources so as to enable offenders to return successfully to the community and remain there as contributing members. In support of this effort to break the cycle of criminal activity and recidivism, we will provide inmates every opportunity to develop the skills, attitudes, insights and desire to pursue this end. We invite and will solicit the involvement of agencies, organizations, groups and individuals throughout the state to join us as partners in preparing for and supporting offenders' return to society.

Louisiana is a recognized leader in corrections and is one of only three fully accredited correctional systems in America.

